R. Barton-

I am honored in being permitted, upon behalf of the Trustees of Middlebury College, to accept from the hands of one of their number, a graduate of the College and an ~~honored~~ revered citizen of this Commonwealth, this corner stone and that for which it stands, namely, a fitting chapel to be erected upon this site ~~and~~ to embody and represent and perpetuate the religious life of this College.

It is doubly gratifying to me, as it is to the Board of Trustees, that this building, as a memorial, will bear the name of ~~a family~~ one so long and so honorably connected with this institution and ~~which~~ who in the state and nation has always ~~stood for~~ upheld and promoted true piety and civic and national righteousness.

This College has always stood for Christianity and has aimed to send out its graduates actuated by the loftiest Christian ideals. The foundations of this institution were laid by the sons of the Pilgrims and the Puritans. Their ideas of the place religion should hold, is

demonstrated by their making the Chapel the central building of the first three ~~buildings~~ erected. This has been encroached upon and crowded by the increasing material demands until the Spiritual idea seemed to be overshadowed by the material. Today we see the religious ideals of our forefathers emancipated and exalted to this loftier position and embodied in a structure worthy the College and its resplendent history. Here, upon this hilltop it will, by the outlines and symmetry of its architecture, proclaim that this College believes in God, in the supremacy of righteousness, in the creation of a safe, sane and just society, the triumph of justice, the transcendent worth of character, the reality of the unseen, and in the immortality of the soul.

Christianity has always been the friend of education. In the middle ages when intellectual life stagnated, the Church kept burning upon the altar of learning the flame of true education. It was the Church that with deep penetrating prevision laid both upon

the Continent of Europe and in Great Britain the foundations of the greatest Universities of the Old World. The history of education in America is but a repetition of the story of the leadership of the Church in the promotion of sound learning.

Even today, among the more than 360 colleges reported by the Commissioner of Education in the United States, only 30 are known to be secular in their origin and management. On the other hand, education has not always given due place to that for which the Church stands and sometimes has tried to rule it out as antagonistic.

In this Chapel education and religion will meet upon common ground and none can say to the other "I have no need of thee." Education will lift religion from the realm of sentiment into the sphere of intelligence, and religion will save education from provincial narrowness, self-destructive, arrogance.

There are two kinds of education, that which culminates in the accumulation of knowledge, and that which imparts constructive power

through the creation of character. Both are necessary for the development of a broad and balanced manhood and womanhood. The library, the halls of science and history and philosophy and literature, as well as the gymnasium and the athletic field, are essential parts of a true college. Through these the awakening minds as well as bodies of the students are aroused to effort and made to experience new visions, and arrive at new conclusions regarding the material and intellectual universe. But education must take cognizance of the fact that above the body and the mind of man there presides a spiritual self whose capacity for growth is boundless and through whose action character becomes self-assertive. This superior self can find its satisfaction only in an atmosphere of spiritual ideas and in the realm of spirit. It is that part of man which reaches out after God and in its searching cries, "Oh that I knew where I might find Him."

This chapel will provide for the generations of students and faculties of this college that to

which the other buildings cannot minister. To this place all will turn in order to experience the reality of the unseen, to satisfy the thirst of the soul for God.

Though this college have all resources so as to be superior to every financial want, though its faculty surpass all others in recognized intellectual and pedagogical supremacy, though it impart all knowledge and all wisdom in every department of modern education, though its researches be as broad as the universe and as boundless as time, yet, if its supreme purpose be not to create Christian character it will become a national menace and an intellectual monstrosity.

Throughout the East religion is interwoven with the daily concerns of all. It is this that has saved society from chaotic dissolution through the unrestrained passions of evil men by casting about them the restraining influences of a ~~genuine~~ religious belief. Only we Christians are inclined to question the place of religion in shaping character and in

the creation of ideas and ideals that ~~shall~~ should dominate. Religion is the greatest concern of all races and conditions of men in all the world. It calls out the greatest sacrifices, inspires the most astounding heroism, commands the largest army of devotees, and exercises a more resistless sway than all physical and intellectual ideals and forces combined.

We are here today concerned with the erection of a structure that will stand, not only for a religion, but for that religion whose supremacy is acknowledged by all others and whose beneficent sway means purity of thought and purpose, perfection of character, and self-sacrificing service for humanity. The building to be erected on this spot is exalted above the gymnasium as the soul is exalted above the body; above the library as the oracles of God written upon the human heart are above the printed words of men; above the halls of science, art, philosophy and history, as the author and creator is above that which he has created; superior to all that human vision can grasp as

the unseen, eternal God is exalted above that which is temporal.

We then, the Trustees of this College, on behalf of ~~themselves~~ our and ~~their~~ our successors, in the name of the generations of students it will serve, in full recognition of the supreme importance of such a religious center to the life of the institution, and in loving memory of him whose name this structure is to bear, gratefully accept at your hand this Chapel as we pledge ourselves to safeguard to the limit of our capacity the gift and the ideals it is intended to perpetuate.